

## **Places and Spaces of Cultural Production in East Asia**

### ***International Graduate Conference / Cultural Typhoon in Europe 2016***

**22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> September 2016, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Vienna**

#### **About the conference**

This conference provides a platform for young researchers and scholars from East Asian Studies (Japanese Studies, Chinese Studies, Korean Studies, Comparative East Asian Studies etc.) and Cultural Studies and Social Science researchers focussing on the area, to debate, connect and network, by discussing the topic of Places and Spaces of Cultural Production in East Asia.

#### **What is the „Cultural Typhoon in Europe“?**

We were inspired by the [Cultural Typhoon](#), an international conference that unites academics, artists and activists for a few days every year at a location in Japan. Our conference honours the Cultural Typhoon and its ideas, yet we do not want to copy the concept, but seek to create something new by swirling in some aspects of Europe, some East Asian Studies, and a great portion of inter- and anti-disciplinary cooperation. The wind is rising and the typhoon is going to arrive in Vienna this September, but it is highly likely that the Cultural Typhoon will be spotted again somewhere else in Europe in the future.

#### **Important dates**

Call for papers: opened on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Call for papers deadline: Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> May 2016 (12:00 CEST)

Notification of acceptance: Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2016

#### **About the topic**

The (re)production and consumption of culture—e.g. art, literature, music, popular media, or (reinvented) traditional practices—has become a central aspect of modern societies. Buzzwords like “global culture” and “internet phenomenon” evoke pictures of a connected, homogenous modern world in which categories like place and space are irrelevant, or at its best, degraded to labels for marketing products. Therefore the understanding of “culture” has become even more fluid. Everyone is invited to freely construct their own cultural identity through the worldwide "cultural supermarket" (Mathews 2000), to express oneself through the possibilities of modern communication technologies—everybody can be a producer of culture, anywhere, anytime.

Behind these new opportunities lies an economic order that constantly produces new sites of crisis, conflicts and exploitation—but also of resistance and defiance. Paradoxically, we live in a

fragmented, heterogeneous world, where the differences between streets, towns, regions and countries have become even greater. Therefore, it is necessary to question concepts of space and place limited by the frameset of nation states as well as to overcome the dichotomies of centre-periphery or global-local. This conference refers to spaces and places not only in a strictly geographical or physical sense, but also takes into account fictional, virtual, imagined or perceived forms.

In East Asia these conflicting experiences can be seen clearly: Japanese popular culture has become a global fashion, while Chinese factories produce the actual technology products that made it possible. This represents a case in point that the contemporary state of cultural production is irrevocably linked to the places and spaces of production, distribution and consumption.

The Cultural Typhoon in Vienna focuses on places and spaces of cultural production in East Asia and seeks to establish a dialogue on this topic amongst postgraduate students from diverse fields. Perspectives from Area Studies concerned with East Asia or singular countries are as welcome as Cultural Studies and Social Sciences approaches dealing with this topic.

**The conference is centred on five key themes and papers in these themes are particularly encouraged:**

- I. Case studies of peripheral and/or regional cultural production
- II. Constrained spaces and places of cultural production (e.g. censorship, lack of infrastructure, etc.)
- III. Spaces and places as cultural production
- IV. Regional < national < Asian < global < digital? / virtual?
- V. Theories, meta-theories and para-theories of space and place

Contributions do not have to be confined to the five categories above. We would also like to encourage colleagues to submit papers related to “Places and Spaces of Cultural Production in East Asia” that do not match these five categories exactly. More information concerning the themes is given [on the homepage](#).

## **Call for papers**

The conference welcomes:

- A) Graduate students (doctoral candidates and master students)
- B) Academics
- C) Artists, journalists and activists

## **Submission guidelines**

Submissions should include a written abstract in English, as well as the author's affiliation, contact details and a classification to one of the groups mentioned above (A, B, or C). The written abstract should not exceed 350 words and must include a title and the author's name. (We welcome abstracts in any additional language as supplement to the English version and these abstracts will be included in the programme as well). Participants from Group C can also attach pictures or links to back up their written concepts. All information should be included in a single attached file in .rtf or .pdf format.

Accepted paper presenters will be allowed at least 15 minutes for presentation and an additional 10 minutes for a question and answer session with the audience. A publication including papers read at the conference is planned. Further details about this project will be published on the homepage.

We also encourage contributions which aim at creative and unusual forms of presentations like round tables, film screenings, performances and happenings, etc. If you are planning such a contribution, please add a detailed description (including a list of the facilities you need) to your abstract. If you have any questions, just contact us in advance.

## **How to submit**

Via email to: [cultural.typhoon.europe@gmail.com](mailto:cultural.typhoon.europe@gmail.com)

Further details on the conference and the link for submission of abstracts will be provided at: <https://culturaltyphooneurope.wordpress.com/>

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**Notice**

If you have further suggestions or questions not answered by the CfP or the homepage, please feel free to contact us via email [cultural.typhoon.europe@gmail.com](mailto:cultural.typhoon.europe@gmail.com).

The organising team will not be able to provide accommodation. Therefore, we ask all participants to look for a proper accommodation for themselves. However, we will provide a list of hostels and other reasonably priced places to stay in Vienna.

Please be sure to confirm in advance, if you need to apply for a Schengen-VISA prior to your arrival (<http://www.schengenvisainfo.com/austria-visa/>).

The **Cultural Typhoon in Europe** is organised by a group of volunteers, who are based in Vienna, Austria. Even though we like the concept and idea of the original Cultural Typhoon in Japan and are in fruitful contact with its organizers, we are an independent entity.